

per month or year. If we are interviewing you a number of times throughout the year it is probably because you take a lot of trips. We need your interview each time to properly represent your participation and your expenditures for each trip. The information on each trip is necessary if our models are to accurately estimate the value anglers place on their fishing experience. Your answers to some questions may be the same for each trip, but some are different. Please be patient with our sampler and provide the needed information so that your activity is properly represented in our sample.

1996 Pilot Economic Survey

The 1996 pilot economic survey of recreational angling was summarized by state. California was divided into northern and southern subregions at the San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara county border in the analysis. Overall cooperation was very good with 99% of the 41,263 interviewed anglers providing trip data, including expenditures. The income questions, which are very important in the model, were understandably the most sensitive questions and what people were most reluctant to answer. Only 70% of anglers coastwide provided this information; anglers on private boat salmon trips in some areas had the lowest response rate at 53%. This creates more uncertainty about the generated estimates and makes it more difficult to accurately compare the value of recreational fishing to other activities. We hope that this year people will feel more comfortable in responding to this question. Please be assured that all information is confidential and is not sold or provided to anyone for any other use.

Basic Findings of 1996 Pilot:

Primary Purpose of Trip

87% of anglers stated the primary purpose of their trip was to go fishing.

Travel Distance

The average distance traveled to the fishing site was 30 miles.

Household Anglers

The average number of anglers from the same household who fished together was 1.6.

Household Income

Average household income was \$46,513 for interviewed anglers. This is higher than the median household income of residents of these states: California, \$38,457; Oregon \$36,470; and Washington \$36,674.

Working Status & Hours

67% of anglers did not take time off from work to fish. The average workweek, including part-time workers, was 27 hours. These variables are used to help determine the value of time.

Trip Expenditures and Estimated Total Cost

Anglers were asked to tally trip costs for gear, bait, boat fees and license fees for their household. The average expenditure was about \$21 per angler trip for all angler trips coastwide. The average mileage cost at 31 cents per mile was about \$9. The average amount of missed income based on personal income, workweek hours and working time status was about \$7. The average of the above costs was \$38 per trip. The total of these estimated costs to all anglers for 7.3 million marine fishing trips in 1996 was about \$253 million for California, Oregon and Washington.

Economic Survey Pacific Coast, 1998

The Marine Recreational Fishery
Statistics Survey (MRFSS)

Economic portion conducted every 3 years

WHAT IS THIS SURVEY?

- ◆ Questions at the fishing site about angler spending
- ◆ Voluntary follow-up telephone interview

WHY COLLECT THIS?

- ◆ To determine the economic value of sportfishing
- ◆ To understand effect of regulations on anglers

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

- ◆ Surveys like this are needed to gather sportfish economic information for fishery managers
- ◆ Your participation ensures that your opinions and experience are reflected in the survey.



*Working in cooperation with your state Fishery Agency
and the National Marine Fisheries Service*

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INTRODUCTION:

The 1998 Pacific coast Economic Survey is part of the nationwide Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) that has been conducted nationwide annually since 1979 by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The economic survey portion consists of a few questions asked of you at the fishing site and a follow-up telephone call at home to gather complete economic information about your fishing trip.

The primary purpose of this survey is to estimate the economic values for marine recreational fishing for important recreational species that are either currently managed or may be managed in the near future. The results will be available to everyone to evaluate proposed management decisions that affect recreational fisheries. This provides an opportunity for you to play a role in these decisions.

Why Participate?

To describe the importance of recreational fishing, accurate values must be identified for different types of sport fishing trips and examined for changes in the quality of those trips. Having this information can help fisheries managers decide which fisheries get priority. For example, with your participation, we can compare the values of sport and commercially caught rockfish.

Without recreational anglers' participation, it is very difficult for state and national fishery managers, policy makers and public groups to see how important recreational fishing is to anglers and to the businesses and communities which depend on anglers' expenditures.

Benefits To You

Support for maintaining recreational fisheries and access facilities in the face of competing needs may benefit from information we are collecting in this survey. Sportfishing opportunities for certain species may be evaluated from the information you are providing us in this survey.

Managers want to conserve the fish while providing for the most desirable fishing opportunities. To do so it is necessary to understand the economic effects of regulations such as restrictions on catch numbers, fish size and fishing season or area on all types of anglers. This survey is designed to enable us to estimate such economic effects on you and on the economy.

Structure of this Survey

Field Survey

At the fishing site we will ask you a few economic questions in addition to our usual MRFSS questions about your trip and catch. If you are on a one-day fishing trip, we'll only ask you five economic questions in the field.

Telephone Follow-up Survey

About three weeks after your trip we will contact you by phone to complete the interview. The telephone follow-up interview allows us to collect the additional needed information after you are home and have completed any and all expenditures associated with the trip. It also shortens the time we spend interviewing you at the fishing site when you may be anxious to return home. On the telephone interview, we will ask you questions about your recent fishing activity, your management preferences under various scenarios, and some sociodemographic questions that help test the validity of our sample. All of these data are fed into a

"economic model" that allows management options to be evaluated.

Why Do You Ask That?

Some of the questions we ask may seem to be completely unrelated to the value of sportfishing. However, all of the questions are very carefully thought out and provide important data for our analyses. Items such as your wage, whether you took time off work to fish, and household income are used to estimate the value of the time you spent on your fishing trip the day you were interviewed. Information like whether you stayed overnight near the fishing site to make your trip, and the distance you traveled from your lodging to the fishing site provides us a picture of the value of the fishing trip. Whether or not your fishing trip was combined with a business trip or family vacation must be known so that the proper portion of the total cost can be applied to the fishing trip. Models have been developed that use this information from you and other anglers to estimate the degree to which anglers value trips over and above their actual expenditures.

Why should I Answer These Questions Again?

"I was already interviewed on a previous fishing trip and now you want to interview me again. WHY?"

The information we use in our model for economics as well as our base survey to estimate catch is based on samples of trips. We cannot possibly sample every angler on every trip so we must use a statistical sample. This sample must be a random selection of some percentage of all trips. Your chances of being interviewed more than once are directly related to the number of trips you take